

# SAFETY MESSAGE

Your Personal Safety is our #1 priority



**Bees & Wasps,** Compiled by USDA-APHIS-CCEP

More than 100 agricultural crops in the United States are pollinated by bees. This means bees are important, if not essential, for the production of billions worth of agricultural crops produced annually. Examples of bee pollinated crops include watermelons, cantaloupe, citrus and apples.

## Bee Safety Tips

From yellow jackets to hornets to wasps, there are plenty of pests out there with stingers. If you run into one of them, don't jump around and wave your arms because that will make the bee angrier. Just walk away as calmly and quickly as possible. You may be too close to the bee's nest. If you can't leave, stay very still until the insect flies away. If it's your food or drink the bee, wasp or hornet is after, put down what you are eating/drinking, then walk away calmly (if you don't put it down, the bee will likely follow you!).

**If you get stung** by a honeybee, immediately remove the stinger by scraping the area with a fingernail, credit card or other sharp-edged tool (the honeybee's stinger has little hooks on it to keep it in your skin!). Avoid using tweezers, since squeezing the stinger can actually pump more irritating venom (poison from the attached venom sac at the end of the stinger) into the skin. Get the stinger out as quickly as possible to lessen the amount of venom that gets into the skin and to lessen the reaction, which usually includes swelling, redness, pain and itch. Apply ice to reduce the swelling and apply a topical anesthetic, such as Lanacane® Anti-Itch Creme, to quickly reduce the pain and itch. The swelling will go away if the area is left alone - so don't scratch it!

### POTENTIAL NESTING SITES

Bees will choose a nesting site in many places where people may disturb them. Nesting cavities may include: buckets, cans, empty boxes, old tires, or any container ranging in volume from as little as 2 to 10 gallons and more. Bees will also choose infrequently used vehicles, lumber piles, holes and cavities in fences, trees, and the ground, in sheds, garages, and other outbuildings between walls or in the open, low decks or spaces under buildings. REMOVE POTENTIAL NEST SITES AROUND BUILDINGS.

[Http://www.burtonfire.com/bee\\_safety.htm](http://www.burtonfire.com/bee_safety.htm)  
<http://honeybee.tamu.edu/safety/>